Restarting of fertilizer factory at Talcher

†1717. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of restarting the closed fertilizer factory at Talcher in Orissa has been started; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) including the Talcher Unit of FCIL subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the Country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

Committee to review price control mechanism of medicines

1718. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a Committee of Group of Ministers to review the price control mechanism of medicines;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(d) the details of the action taken by Government on such recommendations; and

(e) if not, by when the Committee will finalize and submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM has held re-constituted on 1.9.2009. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM makes its recommendation to the Cabinet.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.